

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** Yuichi Ikeda, et al.      **Examiner:** Matthew J. Kasztejna  
**Serial No:** 10/673,122      **Art Unit:** 3739  
**Filed:** September 26, 2003      **Docket:** 17057  
**For:** ELECTRIC BENDING  
ENDOSCOPE      **Dated:** December 8, 2008  
**Conf. No.:** 1307

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION**

Sir:

Pursuant to the election requirement imposed in the Official Action dated November 10, 2008, Applicants elect the claims of Species A, readable on claims 18-22, 25 and 27 for continued prosecution.

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**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via Electronic Filing through the United States Patent and Trademark Office e-business website on the date set forth below.

Dated: December 8, 2008

/Thomas Spinelli/  
Thomas Spinelli

Claims 1-8, 9, 15, 16, 18-25 and 27 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to a species election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention are present in the claims:

Species A, Readable on Figures 1-7;

Species B, Readable on Figures 8 and 9; and

Species C, Readable on Figure 10.

It is the Examiner's position that the species listed as Species A, B and C are patentably distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for species election, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Species A, readable on claims 18-22, 25 and 27. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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